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# THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.



## COMFORTABLE FURNISHING AT MODERATE COST.

BY N. S. S.

IN giving directions for furnishing in detail it is almost invariably the rule that fittings and accessories are left out of the count. Kitchen utensils and furnishings, which are necessarily expensive if they are good, are not mentioned, and the inexperienced person who attempts to construct a home on such a basis finds himself, or possibly herself, stranded somewhere midway between parlor and kitchen, and in possession of a partly finished boat for the voyage of life, but without either motive power to propel or water to float it!

For the benefit of this class as well as for the guidance of those who "would go to housekeeping if it didn't cost so much more than to board," it is the purpose in a series of articles to give absolute practical values, based upon the furnishing of an actual plan of an apartment house now in process of completion.

The plan taken has parlor or sitting-room, dining-room, kitchen and three sleeping rooms, with private hall, bath, closets, pantries and all modern improvements. Of the general arrangement of the building we will speak later, for the present the furnishing of the rooms is the business in hand.

Let us suppose that a clerk or other young man of moderate means, possibly on a salary of \$1,500 per annum, with a wife and three children, is to be the tenant. Strict economy must be observed if anything like a presentable furnishing is to be done at the outset. If he has been so fortunate as to lay by a sum for this purpose the undertaking is less formidable.

The apartment should be thoroughly cleaned if possible before anything is sent in.

If there is no necessity for haste leave the place until the following day after cleaning, then send in the carpets. If all are to be put down at once so much the better. The parlor, which is seventeen feet eleven inches by twelve feet, may be judiciously covered by making the carpet into the form of a rug, which will just clear all casings and need not be cut in any part. For this rug it will require five and one half widths of carpet, each strip four yards and thirteen inches long. Twenty-four yards will make the rug by using a half breadth if it is made of all carpet, or twenty-two inches smaller all round if a border is used. There will then be spaces on each side of the chimney to fill out with carpet like the middle of the rug, and also the spaces in the window casings. The best way to do these is to cut a width in half lengthwise, tack the pieces down with the selvedge edge to the window, allowing the cut edge to extend under the carpet, tacking the edge firmly to the floor. For all the filling out about five yards will be required. If the carpet matches to advantage, and this should be considered in the selection of the pattern, there will be but little waste, as the pieces can be utilized for filling out the spaces. Allow in all twenty-nine yards, and this will be ample if care is exercised in the cutting. The cost depends largely upon the quality selected. Moquette carpet costs \$1.25 to \$1.50 per yard. A fairly good grade is worth \$1.35. This would make the carpet cost \$39.14 without the making, laying or lining. Only an expert should undertake to make a carpet of this sort, as it is too heavy and unmanageable for other hands. There is usually a charge of ten cents per yard for making and laying, and a small extra charge if there are borders with corners to turn and bind. About \$3.50 would be charged for this work with carpet lining at eight cents per yard for ordinary quality, of which twenty-four yards will be required, costing \$1.92. The covering of the floor therefore costs in moquette \$39.26 for carpet, \$3.50 for making and laying, and \$1.92 for lining, \$43.86 total.

A body brussels may be had for \$1.10 to \$1.25. A bargain may frequently be met with in a part of a roll which has been marked down, and excellent goods may be had for ninety cents. This is the same width and requires substantially the same treatment, and costs \$27.10—\$16.43 less than the moquette. Body brussels is undoubtedly the most suitable selection, and will give excellent satisfaction. The chamber that connects with the parlor by folding doors should have carpet to match the front room. Four widths three and one half yards long will be a little more than sufficient, but the extra length may be turned under, as it will only waste in the cutting off. It will need no border. Fourteen yards of carpet for bedroom to match front room will cost \$12.60; making and laying \$1.25; lining, twelve yards, about \$1; total \$14.85.

Good tapestry brussels will cost seventy-five cents per yard and will do quite as well for the two bedrooms. It will be economy to get the dining-room and bedroom carpets alike, and the hall carpet may match either the front room or those in the rear. Fifty-one yards of carpet will cover the two bedrooms and the dining-room. This at seventy-five cents per yard will be \$38.25; making, \$5.00; and lining \$4.00. If there is an accumulation of newspapers the dining-room may have its lining from them, thus saving \$2 in that item. The dealer will tell you that newspapers are worthless, but many old housekeepers, while they will not argue the point, will put down newspapers all the same. Dining-room and bedroom carpets, using newspaper for bedrooms, will cost \$45.35 laid.

Nine and one-fourth yards of carpet will be required for the hall. A strip of stair carpet laid along the middle of the floor, which should be stained or painted on either side, will answer all purposes. Stair carpet to match either the front or back rooms will be better, and may be had in all regular grades and patterns of carpet. Some stair carpets come one yard wide but are not regularly kept. Brussels stair carpet cost \$1 to \$1.50 for ordinary width, yard wide \$1.95 or more. About \$10 will therefore furnish the hall with carpet at \$1 per yard and the necessary lining, which, being yard wide, must be turned in on either edge to the desired width.

A more economical furnishing will be tapestry for front rooms, plainly made without border, it will cost \$32.25 for parlor and connecting bedroom. Ninety-four yards will be required to cover the entire floor, and if there is no reason for desiring variety a roll of one hundred yards may be bought, a good carpet sewer engaged, a roll of lining provided and the work done at home by the day. If the housekeeper knows anything of such work the entire job may be gotten through for a considerably less sum than the estimate given. This, however, is not always practical and need not be taken as a basis for the work.

Instead of twenty-five yards of carpet for the two bedrooms, good matting at twenty-five cents or thirty cents per yard may be used, the entire cost of which will be less than \$10, and with a rug laid down in front of bed and mirror will answer excellently well.

For neat housekeepers a couple of widths of rag or other carpet laid along the kitchen floor will be found very comfortable. The pieces should be sewed together, bound at the ends and securely tacked down with very small tacks if the floor is hard wood, as the carpet must be taken up and dusted at least once every week and large tacks are difficult if not quite impossible to draw out of hard wood. Six yards of rag carpet, costing \$2.40, will be quite enough, and carefully managed will be much more satisfactory than oil cloth.

Thus far the house is cleaned and floors and closets covered at a cost of \$97.39 for tapestry brussels at seventy-five cents per yard, made and laid by the dealer. A roll of 100 yards of tapestry carpet may be bought for seventy cents a yard, and the linings, work and other items furnished by the housekeeper. Just how much work and responsibility she is willing to assume must be left to her own inclinations. She may buy packages of tacks costing thirty cents which will put down all of her carpets, a tack hammer, fifteen cents, she must have anyway, also a tack drawer, ten cents, and large shears, \$1, carpet thread will cost twenty-five cents, the carpet sewer may charge \$5 for her services, possibly \$8, depending on the amount of assistance the housekeeper herself renders. \$10 will cover the outlay for materials and work. Seventy-five yards of lining will be sufficient, at a cost of about \$6. Total cost of job about \$16 in round numbers. This added to the \$70 for carpet makes \$86, a margin in the favor of the home work of \$11, which may be more or less according to the industry and "faculty" of the housekeeper. If odd carpets are bought, fitted over, sewed and put down by home work the entire floor might be covered for \$75 cash outlay. In the February number of THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER this subject will be continued.

The following price list will give the plan as laid down in the description:

Moquette carpet for two front rooms, 43 yards at \$1.35.....	\$58 05
Or body brussels " " " " 43 yards at 90c.....	38 70
Or tapestry " " " " 43 yards at 75c.....	32 25
Making and laying 10c. per yard.....	4 30
Carpet lining.....	3 44
Dining-room and two chamber carpets, tapestry, 51 yds at 75c.	38 25
Making and laying.....	5 00
Lining.....	2 00
Dining room carpet alone, 26 yards at 75c.....	19 50
Mattings for bedrooms.....	10 00
Hall carpet and lining.....	11 00
Rag carpet for closets, hall and kitchen.....	4 15
This gives choice of ways, and leaves the only remaining item of cleaning, labor &c.....	3 00

The readers who are interested can readily select from these figures those that best accord with their own tastes and circumstances.